Hacking your Smart-e-Bear

Well, in truth, there's no hacking involved, it's simply understanding the file structure. So plug your bear into your USB port and lets get started.

(disclosure: this is not original...it's all derivative from http://myquealer.com/blog/2008/12/adding-a-song-to-smart-e-bear-step-by-step/ but my bear had a slightly different file structure...a different version?....so let's go through it in detail.)

Plug your bear in and look for the file Playlist.txt. Before going any further, copy it and name it Playlist-was.txt in case you ever want to go back to the original programming.

Pick a text editor and open Playlist.txt...you should see:

```
MEDIA101.OGG
MEDIA102.OGG
MEDIA103.OGG
MEDIA104.OGG
MEDIA105.OGG
MEDIA106.OGG
[
MEDIA111.OGG
MEDIA112.OGG
MEDIA113.OGG
MEDIA114.OGG
MEDIA115.OGG
MEDIA116.OGG
MEDIA117.OGG
[
MEDIA121.OGG
MEDIA122.OGG
MEDIA123.OGG
MEDIA124.OGG
MEDIA125.OGG
MEDIA126.OGG
MEDIA131.OGG
MEDIA132.OGG
[
MEDIA133.OGG
MEDIA134.OGG
MEDIA135.OGG
MEDIA136.OGG
```

Note that I've removed some entries from each section just to save paper, but this is representative of what you should be seeing.

So lets go through that step by step.

```
MEDIA101.OGG ← intro to section 1 (fun songs) [keep this!]
MEDIA102.OGG ← which paw to squeeze [keep this!]
MEDIA103.OGG ← intro to first song
MEDIA104.OGG ← first song
MEDIA105.OGG ← intro to second song
MEDIA106.OGG ← second song.
[            ← section break
MEDIA111.OGG ← intro to section 2 (songs about letters...)[keep this]
MEDIA112.OGG ← which paw to squeeze [keep this!]
MEDIA113.OGG ← intro to first song
MEDIA114.OGG ← first song
MEDIA115.OGG    etc
MEDIA116.OGG    etc
[            ← section break
MEDIA121.OGG ← intro to section 3 (dance songs) [keep this!]
MEDIA122.OGG ← which paw to squeeze [keep this!]
MEDIA123.OGG
MEDIA124.OGG
MEDIA125.OGG
MEDIA126.OGG
[
MEDIA133.OGG  ← intro to section 4 (stories) [keep this!]
MEDIA134.OGG
MEDIA135.OGG
MEDIA136.OGG
```

So you can see the pattern here:

1) you keep the first 2 audio files in each section...that's the introduction to the section

2) after those first 2 audio files, each "song" you want to add has two actual audio files...the first is the title of the song and the second is the song itself.

3) you keep the [in place for the section breaks.

As near as I can determine, you can put any number of songs into each section...i've got 20 or so in one section and it works perfectly.

At least for the stories, there doesn't seem to be a time limit...i've got two stories that are an hour long and it plays them just fine.

Rules:

i.   Each song must have an audio file for the title and an audio file for the song.

ii.   The file names MUST be 8 characters and they must be .ogg files. (no more, no less)

iii.   Don't mess with the first two files in each location....or, if you do, make sure you play

with the bear enough to know what they're saying and replace them with something similar.

iv.   Don't mess with the section headers.

The quality of the speaker, etc, you can easily get by with level 0 on the .ogg files.
The bear comes with about **400M!!** of empty space, so plenty of room for your own songs.

So, step by step:

1) Fire up audacity or similar and record yourself saying "buffalo soldier". Normalize and save as a 0 quality .ogg file. Call the file BuffaloN.ogg (buffalo soldier Name)

2) rip your Bob Marley cd, pull Buffalo Soldier into audacity, save it as a 0 quality .ogg file. Call the file BuffaloS.ogg (buffalo soldier Song)

3) Copy both those .ogg files to the bear.

4) Save the original playlist as playlist-was.txt

5) Bring up playlist.txt in a text editor and delete all the lines from `MEDIA123.OGG` to the next section header. (the [, remember?)

6) In the place of the lines you just deleted, key in BuffaloN.ogg and BuffaloS.ogg. The "dance" section should now look like:

```
[
MEDIA121.OGG
MEDIA122.OGG
BuffaloN.ogg
BuffaloS.ogg
[
```

7) Unplug your bear, turn it on, run through the drill until the bear says "do you want to hear some songs we can dance to? Squeeze my hand"....and squeeze the bear's hand.

8) Listen to Bob Marley coming out of your kid's (or grandkid's) bear. Laugh like a fool because you did it.

9) Repeat as necessary with more fun tunes.

And stories.

I mean, think about it....Orson Welles War of the Worlds radio broadcast was an hour long....what a great way for a parent to get a break!